

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An ink-jet printer system wherein a common ink-jet printer is shared by a multiple number of host machines, characterized in that the ink-jet printer is provided with a storage means which updates and stores the completion time of the last printing operation and each host machine is provided with a print control means which reads out the completion time from the ink-jet printer at the start of a printing operation, compares it with the current time and selectively issues an execution order of a recovery treatment to the ink-jet printer based on the result of the comparison.
2. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 1, wherein the print control means includes a time measuring means for measuring the current time and transfers the current time measured by the time measuring means at the end of a printing operation to the ink-jet printer as the completion time of the printing operation.
3. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 1, wherein the print control means determines whether or not the completion time of the last printing operation read out from the ink-jet printer is valid and gives an execution order of a recovery treatment if the completion time is invalid.

4. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 2, wherein the print control means determines whether or not the completion time of the last printing operation read out from the ink-jet printer is valid and gives an execution order of a recovery treatment if the completion time is invalid.

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10 5. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 1, wherein if the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later time than the current time, the print control means issues to the ink-jet printer a command of prohibiting the update of the completion time held in the storage means.

15 6. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 2, wherein if the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later time than the current time, the print control means issues to the ink-jet printer a command of prohibiting the update of the completion time held in the storage means.

20 7. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 3, wherein if the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later time than the current time, the print control means issues to the ink-jet printer a command of prohibiting the update

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of the completion time held in the storage means.

8. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 4, wherein if the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later time than the current time, the print control means issues to the ink-jet printer a command of prohibiting the update of the completion time held in the storage means.

10 9. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 1, wherein if the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later time than the current time, the print control means informs that fact to other host machines and provides warning.

15 10. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 2, wherein if the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later time than the current time, the print control means informs that fact to other host machines and provides warning.

20 11. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 3, wherein if the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later time than the current time, the print control means informs

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that fact to other host machines and provides warning.

12. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 4, wherein if
the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer
5 at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later
time than the current time, the print control means informs
that fact to other host machines and provides warning.

13. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 5, wherein if
the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer
10 at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later
time than the current time, the print control means informs
that fact to other host machines and provides warning.

15 14. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 6, wherein if
the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer
at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later
time than the current time, the print control means informs
that fact to other host machines and provides warning.

20 15. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 7, wherein if
the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer
at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later
time than the current time, the print control means informs
25 that fact to other host machines and provides warning.

16. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 8, wherein
if the completion time which was read from the ink-jet printer
at the end of the last printing operation indicates a later
5 time than the current time, the print control means informs
that fact to other host machines and provides warning.

17. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 2, further
comprising: a clock server for indicating the current time,
10 wherein the print control means reads the current time from
the clock server at regular intervals and updates the current
time measured by the time measuring means based on the read
current time.

15 18. The ink-jet printer according to Claim 1, further
comprising: a clock server for indicating the current time,
wherein the storage means updates and stores the current time
indicated by the clock server at the printing operation end
as the completion time of the last printing operation.

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